



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

*MARCH 28, 2003*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER**  
**(202) 225-3826**

### **BISHOP DECRIES BUDGETARY 'PERFECT STORM' LEAVING LONG ISLAND'S HOSPITALS AT RISK**

*House Budget Contains More than \$12 Billion in Cuts to NY Health Care*

**Port Jefferson**—Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) held a press conference at Mather Hospital today with Kevin Dahill, President and CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and hospital administrators to describe health care cuts in the federal budget which leave Long Island's hospitals at risk. The federal cuts combined with proposed cuts in Governor Pataki's budgets create a budgetary 'perfect storm,' which will leave many Long Islanders at risk.

"Funding cuts from the federal and state government combined with increased Medicaid needs due to the slumping economy has created a perfect storm that threatens the health and safety of our communities," Bishop said. "The budget contains a series of devastating cuts to health care on top of existing funding shortfalls."

The budget passed on March 21 in the US House of Representatives—which Bishop opposed—would reduce Medicaid payments to New York by \$12 billion over the next 10 years. This is on top of federal Medicare reductions, which meant a \$265.8 million loss during the current fiscal year for New York.

"These cuts are not taking a scalpel to health care funding, this is a chainsaw," Bishop said.

"Congressman Bishop is referring to current proposed cuts," Dahill said. "However, those cuts are just the tip of the iceberg because just in this past fiscal year Long Island hospitals have already been hit with a \$170 million reduction. That is in addition to the \$550 million reduction since 1997 under the Balanced Budget Act."

Bishop is not only fighting to reverse the funding cuts in the federal budget, he is working to pass legislation that will boost health care funding to New York. Bishop is a co-sponsor of the State Budget Relief Act, which would provide relief to states by increasing the funding for state Medicaid programs. For New York, this would result in more than \$1.6 billion in relief.

# # #